

# America's Illiberal Liberalism

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# Puzzle

- Why has Liberal America embraced such illiberal policies as of late?
  - Internationally:
    - Preemptive war.
    - Hegemony/Empire.
  - Domestically:
    - Restriction of Civil-liberties.
    - Rendition and torture.

# Explanations

- Conventional Wisdom = 9/11:
  - Logic = Lasswell's "Garrison State."
- My argument = America's Liberal Tradition Itself:
  - Build's on Louis Hartz's classic argument.

# THE LIBERAL TRADITION IN AMERICA LOUIS HARTZ

THE CLASSIC ON THE CAUSES AND  
EFFECTS OF LIBERAL THOUGHT  
IN THE U.S., WITH A NEW  
INTRODUCTION BY TOM WICKER

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# How the Liberal Tradition Makes the U.S. Illiberal

- Leads us to see GWOT as very different type of war.
- Threat is not just physical, but existential.
- Can't be managed, must be "extirpated:"
  - Spread democracy.
  - Crush terrorism.

# Road Map

- Outline Hartz' Liberal Tradition Argument.
- Show Bush/Neocons Fall Within It.
- Establish Links Between LTA and America's Increasing Illiberalism Abroad and at Home.
- Suggest the Importance of Realism as a Counterweight to Liberalism.

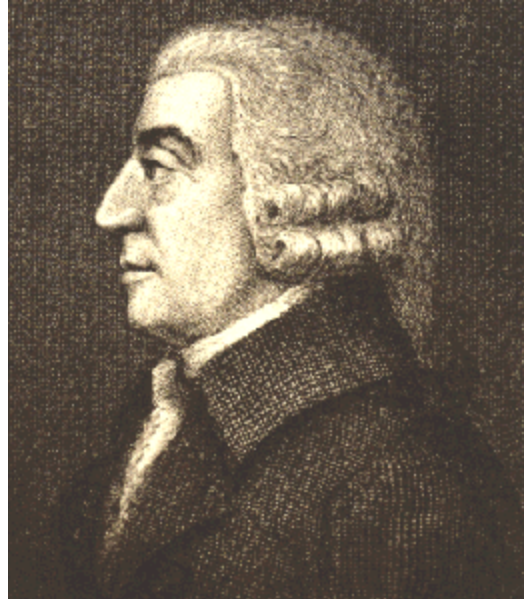
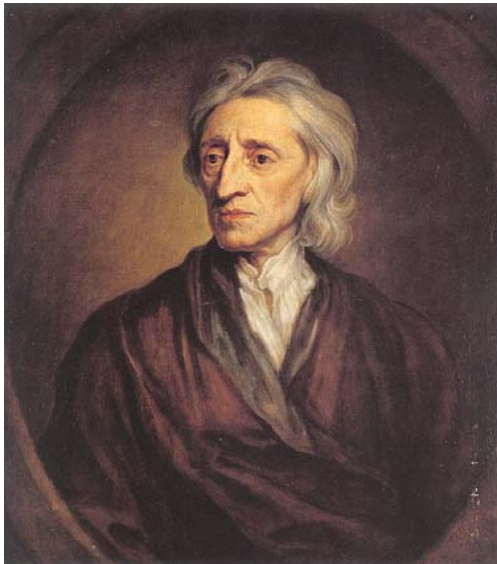
# What is Liberalism?

- ≠ liberalism:



# Hartz's Liberalism

- =**L**iberalism:





# “Lockean Liberalism”

- Individual Freedom.
- Equality of Opportunity.
- Free markets.
- Political Representativeness.

# Implications for American Liberalism

- Development = easy.
- All Good Things Go Together.
- Radicalism and Revolution = Bad.
- Democracy > Order.

# LTA is Bipartisan



# LTA is Bipartisan (II)



# Bush, Neoconservatism, and the Liberal Tradition

**Table 1: Comparison of Conservatives, Liberals, and Neoconservatives by Issue**

Issue	Conservatives	Liberals	Neocons
1) individual vs. group	group	individual	group
2) natural condition of man	conflict	cooperation	mixed
3) human rationality	little	much	mixed
4) human nature	unchangeable/bad	changeable	changeable
5) society improvable	no	yes/from below	yes/from above
6) norms vs. power	power	norms	norms
7) role of international institutions	negligible	central	negligible
8) role of military	fight/win wars	promote ideals/protect human rights	promote ideals/protect human rights

# Realism as a Counterweight to Liberalism

